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SAMUEL WILLIAM JOHNSON (1830–1909).

Fellow in Class I, Section 3, 1871.

Samuel William Johnson was born in Kingsboro, New York, July 3, 1830, and died at his home in New Haven on July 21, 1909. He entered the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University as an advanced student of chemistry in 1850; later studying abroad under such masters as Erdmann, Liebig, Pettenkofer, and Von Kobel. In 1856 he began his career as Professor of Chemistry in the Sheffield Scientific School, teaching Analytical, Agricultural and Theoretical Chemistry, in all of which he displayed that clear and concise knowledge which makes the great teacher. It was, however, in the field of agricultural science that his greatest interest lay, and it was mainly through his efforts that the State of Connecticut gained the honor of inaugurating in this country the work of Agricultural Experiment Stations, which are now in successful operation in every State of the Union. The Connecticut Station, founded through his efforts, served for many years under his management as a striking illustration of the many ways in which chemical science can give aid to practical agriculture. In 1868 he published a book, "How Crops Grow," which attracted wide attention, and in 1870 this was followed by another volume, "How Crops Feed." They were the first books printed in this country bringing together in related form such knowledge as then existed regarding the composition and physiology of plants. In reality they furnished a new basis for instruction in agriculture, and that their worth was clearly recognized is shown by the fact that they were translated into German, Russian, Swedish, and Japanese, and the former book into French and Italian also.

In analytical chemistry, between the years 1864 and 1883, he edited three editions of Fresenius' Manual of Qualitative Chemical Analysis. Also, in 1870, he edited Fresenius' System of Instruction in Quantitative Analysis. His writings on chemical subjects were numerous, he being for more than fifty years a constant contributor to agricultural and scientific journals.

As the writer has stated in another connection, Professor Johnson's broad and keen grasp of chemical problems, added to his farsighted appreciation of the many advantages to be gained by a judicious application of the science of chemistry to agriculture, made him a power in his generation, and his services counted for much in the development of agricultural chemistry. Further, in the early years of the Sheffield Scientific School he was a pillar of strength, an example of the highest type of productive scholar, and a forceful illustration of the power which a scientific man can wield for the good of the community. The life of Samuel William Johnson and the work he accomplished constitute a suggestive example of a form of high public service which the man of scientific training can render his country and humanity.

RUSSELL H. CHITTENDEN.

WILLIAM THOMSON, LORD KELVIN (1824–1907)

Foreign Honorary Member in Class I, Section 4, 1872.

William Thomson was born in Belfast, Ireland, on June 26th, 1824. He was knighted in 1866 and was raised to the peerage in 1892 with the title of Baron Kelvin of Largs. His ancestors had migrated from Scotland in the seventeenth century. His father, James Thomson, removed from Belfast with his family to Glasgow, Scotland in 1832 to occupy the chair of Mathematics at Glasgow University. William matriculated at that institution in 1834, being then a little over ten years old. He was a precocious boy, rapidly advancing in his studies and early giving promise of that great mathematical genius and grasp of scientific problems, which especially characterized his later life. At sixteen he had, as a voluntary task, mastered Fourier's methods and theorems in the original French, this study occupying a fortnight only. He graduated from Cambridge University in 1845 taking rank as second wrangler, and shortly afterwards became Smith's Prizeman. Many evidences of his special talents were shown during his student years at Cambridge, in papers and discussions.

Leaving Cambridge he studied in Paris and there came into contact with such leaders as Pouillet, Regnault, Liouville, Biot, Cauchy, Foucalt, Dumas, Pelouze and others.

In 1845 he was granted a Fellowship with rooms at Cambridge. He had early shown a deep interest in electrical problems and theories, in which field he afterward found opportunity to do his most important work. This interest brought him into contact with Faraday. The